

Investigational New Drug Trials for West Nile Virus in Arizona

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There are now several investigational new drug trials for West Nile Virus (WNV) in Arizona. There are two categories of IND protocols: WNV intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), and interferon therapy.

WNV IVIG will be available at three locations: St. Joseph's Hospital, Mayo Clinic, and the University of Arizona.

There are two arms of the WNV IVIG study. The first is for patients with invasive neurologic disease. IVIG needs to be started soon after the onset of neurologic disease, so serologic confirmation is not required in order to start the IVIG. Therefore, contact the principal investigator quickly if you are considering the diagnosis of WNV.

The second arm is for patients who are at higher risk for progression of WNV infection. These would be patients without neurologic symptoms, but who are febrile with ***serologically confirmed*** WNV infection. These include patients over 40 years of age, or patients ≥ 18 years old who are immunocompromised. IVIG needs to be started within 7 days of fever on these patients.

Interferon therapy will be part of an IND protocol through Cornell University, and administered through Arizona Research Center in Phoenix. IRB approval through WIRB® (Western Institutional Review Board) is expected soon.

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To enroll patients in the trial please contact your Infection Control Practitioner for further information or call the Maricopa County Disease Reporting Line:

(602) 747-7111.